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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected article avenuraed, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

## Widely Separated Friends.

On April 21 Gen. LEONARD WOOD WAS in Rome, Italy, explaining to King Vic-TOB EMMANUEL that his mission to the Philippines was one of military duty only, and that he entertained the greatest admiration for Governor TAFT, the civilian who is Governor of the islands. Governor TAFT, remarked Gen. Wood to the King, had accomplished in the Philippines results which he, Gen. Wood, felt

The King thereupon invited Gen. Wood to stop on his way down the Red Sea long enough to make professional observations and study conditions in the Italian colony of Eritrea.

Somehow the substance of this con versation, including the high opinion of Governor TAFT's administration, which Gen. Wood, as a simple soldier, is now expressing to royalty, found its way to the newspaper correspondents, to the cable, and thus to general publication in this country. The advertisement of Gen. Woop's admiration for Governor TAFT and approval of his work in the Philippines possibly leaked out through some indiscretion on the part of the young monarch.

On the same day, April 21, Capt. ED-GAR GERALD BELLAIRS, in former times the principal advertising agent of Gen. LEGGARD WOOD's fame and the faithful oter of his personal fortunes, was n trouble in the town of El Paso in Texas. BELLAIRS left Arizona about a fortnight ago with the indignantly avowed intention of coming East to prove that he is an honorable British officer worthy of the respect of honest men, and an entirely different person from the swindler and ex-convict whose long string aliases has now become familiar to our readers. But Capt. BELLAIRS seems to have tarried in El Paso to engage in a new literary enterprise, the publication of a local guide book. While occupied with this undertaking he was entified by a Pinkerton detective, and the El Pase Times printed the story of his career. So it happened that on the very day when Gen. LEONARD WOOD was confiding to VICTOR EMMANUEL III. is exalted opinion of Governor TAPF, the man who has been trying to pull down TAPT for Wood's benefit was in the office of our El Paso contemporary going through the pitiful farce of denying once more that he is a forger, swindler and ex-convict. This is from the El Paso

Capt. E. G. BELLAIRS deales that part of the tory which relates to his alleged criminal record He affirms that his recall from the Philippines and equent discharge from the Associated Press ant of alleged crookedness in his past life, due to mistaken identity. He says that the story told by the Pinkerton detective that he was of forgery under the name of BALLEYTING is unfounded, except in a strong resemblance between imself and the real cuiprit."

imes of April 22:

For the information of the good people of El Paso and for the protection of the people of any part of the civilized world to which " BELLAIRS " may next betake himself, we may say that the identification of the author of " As It Is in the Philippines " with the BALLENTINE, BAL-ANTYNE, CHEIRITON, SHERIDAN, AL-LAINE and CAMERON known to the police records is absolute. It rests not merely on "the strong resemblance between himself and the real culprit " to which he refers. It is not a case of mistaken ntity. BELLAIRS is the CHEIRITON whom Judge MITCHELL sentenced to the Florida penitentiary. BELLAIRS is the convict who worked five years in the chain gang at the phosphate mines of Ichetucknee; whom the sole lessee of convict labor there, Mr. E. B. BAILEY, recognised in Broadway last September, and who, as evidence of his progress in life and literature since the convict-camp days, sent to that kind-hearted boss in December a copy of his book defaming Governor TAFT and lauding Gen. WOOD, and instituting this comparison between the two administrators:

" The difference between TAPT and Wood is that the former is a politician and a 'trimmer,' while the letter is a diplomat and a statesman, and it is to be hoped that, in American interests, such a Man as LEONARD WOOD will succeed TAPT in the Philippines, and such a Government as was founded in Cuba will succeed the present top-heavy organi

As accumulating facts indicate the extraordinarily close relation which formerly existed between Gen. LEONARD Woon and the ex-convict of the many es, and the part which the latter has borne in the surprising fortunes of the former, it becomes more and more important that the travelling student of colonial conditions and administrative methods should interrupt his studies long enough to state clearly, in justice to his own reputation, whether he knew or had reason to suspect at Havana that Palace intimate and press agent of the Military Governor of Cube was a

The Automobile Bill at Albany. The Bailey Automobile bill, now awaiting signature, arouses fresh indignation every day. Last Thursday the National Association of Automobile Manufactur-ers took steps to express its unqualified disappreval of the bill. On the same day the New York Automobile Trade on, representing the dealers in motor vehicles in this city, adopted a resolution severely condemning the bill, on the ground that it was extremely in-

jurious to the interests of the members. These organizations are by no means alone in their attitude toward this

are the sumerous owners of motor trucks and delivery wagens and hun-dreds of individual automobilists who are free to express their opinions as they see fit. Indeed, outside of the Automobile Club, whose action favoring the bill has never been satisfactorily exclaimed, those who have expressed their sentiments concerning the proposed law are practically unanimous in denounutes would, they say, rob automobiling in New York State of all its pleasure, would restrict the sales of vahicles and, consequently, curtail the manufacturers output and work a direct injury to thousands of employees in the shops and factories where the vehicles are made

and handled. Proof that it is entirely possible to enace an automobile law which while brief, precise, and clear-cut is fair to all users of the highways, has been afforded by the State of Connecticut. The law there provides that no automobile "shall be run on any highway or public place outside the limits of a city at a rate of speed to exceed fifteen miles an hour"; that within city limits the speed shall not be greater than twelve miles per hour; that "upon approaching a crossing of intersecting streets or roads" the machine shall be kept under control and its speed reduced until such place is passed. An excellent provision of the law is that "no city. town, or borough shall have power to make any ordinance, by-law, or resolution" affecting in any way the speed at which motor vehicles may travel. For violating any part of the law, the fine

shall be not more than \$200. A bill is now in the Connecticut Legislature to reduce the speed of automobiles when meeting horse-drawn vehicles, and also providing that the former shall not be run "at a rate of speed dangerous to life and property." The proposed law also provides for not mor than thirty days' imprisonment, in addition to a fine, for violations. Nonresident drivers of automobiles who visit Connecticut will not be molested so long as they conform to a similar law in their own State.

To permit the Bailey bill to become a law, in the hope that the next Legislature will set things right, seems rather poor policy. There is still time to kill it. Let the friends of modern locomotion mobilize for determined action.

The Meaning of Russia's New Move It is hard to believe that the St. Petersburg Government will insist upon the demands which it has presented to China as conditions precedent to the evacuation of Manchuria. These conditions, if the published synopsis of them be correct-its correctness is vouched for by Sir ERNEST SATOW, the British Minister at Pekin-are incompatible not only with the general assur ances given by Russia to the treaty Powers respecting the preservation of China's territorial integrity and the maintenance of the "open door," but also with a specific promise repeatedly made to our own State Department. Under the circumstances, it was expected that a protest couched in strong erms would be submitted to the Russian Foreign Office by the United States as well as by Great Britain and Japan.

It will be remembered that Russia had agreed to evacuate Newchwang on April 8, and the rest of southern Manfixed, but this report was subsequently denied, and now seems to have had no foundation. Just when the Russian Charge d'Affaires informed the Chinese Foreign Office that no further steps toward evacuation would be taken until certain conditions were complied with is not yet known, nor were the conditions themselves published in this

country until Friday, April 24. The purport of the conditions was at once recognized as tantamount to a demand that Russian sovereignty should be practically recognized throughout Manchuria. It is obvious that if China was to resume possession of Manchuria. she would regain the right of establishing new treaty ports therein and of granting exequature to foreign Consuls at such places. In the treaty of commerce now in course of negotiation between China and the United States, we have asked for the opening of treaty ports at Mukden and Taku-Shan. The course now reputed to be taken by Russia with reference to this request would traverse the interests of the

The commercial and fiscal purpose of the move manifestly is to compel foreign merchants to ship all goods intended for Manchuria either to Newchwang or to the new Russian port of Dalny on the Liau-Tung Peninsula. This would mean virtually a monopoly for Dalny, because, as the means of communication between Newchwang and the interior of Manchuria would remain in Russian hands, it would be easy by obstructive regulations to destroy the usefulness of Newchwang as a port of entry. It is true that for the moment the St. Petersburg Government offers to make Dalny a free port, but, after the foreign traffic with Manchuria had been concentrated at that point, the offer might be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The only possible security for the maintenance of the open door in Manchuria is the retention of the adminis-tration of the custom houses at Newchwang, and such other treaty ports as may be established, in Chinese hands. Then foreign traders would know precisely what they would have to pay, to wit, an effective 5 per cent. ad valorem in silver on all imports.

It further appears that the Russian Government does not contemplate a complete withdrawal even from New-chwang, for her representative at Pekin demands that she shall continue to control the sanitary regulations at that port, and that the customs revenues there collected shall be paid into the Russo-Chinese Bank. Of course, they could be sequestrated if hostilities were threatened. Another demand is that Russia shall have the right to erect its

the same poles. It is plain that if this requirement were complied with the value of the telegraph system to Chins. or to any foreign Power except Russia, would be minimized. Finally, it is impossible to reconcile with the maintenance of the "open door," which im-plies that the subjects or citizens of all treaty Powers shall enjoy equal rights in Chinese territory, the reported demand that in Manchuria no foreigners except Russians shall be employed in an administrative capacity, whether military

The United States cannot acquiesce in China's acceptance of these demands. The exporters of American products to China are concerned vitally in the assertion by the Pekin Government of sovereign control of traffic through treaty ports with the interior of the country. If that control is to be transferred in Manchuria to Russia, that region will practically become, for commercial purposes, Russian territory.

In the face of a proper protest from Washington it is difficult to believe that the Russian Government will persist in the extraordinary demands put forward at Pekin by its representative.

The Society of American Authors i commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the birthday of RALPH WALDO EMERSON by a dinner at a luxurious hotel in this town. Plain living, the simple old Concord fashion of pie for breakfast, could not be exemplified more satisfactorily.

High thinking will be provided for as ably. The all-commemorating Mr. EDWIN MARKHAM will " prepare a poem of commemoration." Col. HENRY WAT-

TERSON will be one of the orators. Could there be a more fitting poet to hymn the great Yankee optimist, the ever cheerful and hopeful poet and philosopher, the farmer-scholar with his sublime belief in democracy and his daily life of equality with his townsmen, than Mr. MARKHAM, the pessimist rhet-orician weeping over the French peasants of his fancy, seeing nature through his study windows in Brooklyn and

ploughing his mind for phrases?

And Col. HENRY WATTERSON, with his philosophical mind, his eagerness to shun clamor and controversy, his temperament compact in equal parts of beautiful Greek calmness and Eastern mysticism, his modesty and moderation sure, this was the predestined eulogist of Mr. EMERSON. RALPH hitched his wagon to a star. HENRY hitched the star-eyed to his wagon.

Somewhere in the Elysian meadows that Yankee must be sitting among the family of philosophers, with EPICTETUS, with MARCUS AURELIUS, with PLOTINUS, with PLATO. If echoes from the world of sense spread to those ethereal shores, Mr. EMERSON must smile as he thinks of Col. WATTERSON and Mr. MARKHAM. Always an optimist, he must now appreciate more than ever how fortunate he is to be dead.

# The Tramp on the Train.

The Secret Service men on the President's train seem to have an imperfect understanding of his principles. Friday night they found a man on the outside of the vestibule between the baggage car and the club car. After a fight in churia in September. According to one | which he showed pluck and power, they elegram, the evacuation of Newchwang overcame and gathered him. He had his credentials with him, a card showing him to be a member, in good standing, of the Sailors' Union of San Francisco. Technically and temporarily he was a tramp, on his way to St. Paul. Instead of being introduced to Mr. ROOSEVELT. he was turned over to the mercies of the police at Billings. Thus both the sacred rights of labor unions and some of the holiest of Mr. ROOSEVELT's feelings were stabbed.

This tramp was powerful and strenu ous, a " man that has got the stuff in him." It is an admitted right and privilege of the labor trusts to which Mr. ROOSEVELT is so devoted, to take possession of a railroad. Then why this inhospitality, this ferocious resistance to a single member of a labor trust who takes the liberty of riding unostentatiously on the President's train? Irrespective of his right and privilege to ride, his position was sound economically according to the new political economy. He was not preying upon the President. He was clutching a great corporation, a trust, by the throat and forcing it to carry him. He was making unearned wealth and soulless monopoly pay his fare.

Besides, he had in him the stuff out of which strong men are made. And instead of getting a handshake he got the handcuffs!

The thirty-eighth anniversary of the assassination of ABBAHAM LINCOLN has been the occasion of the production of several interesting memorials of the great President. A citizen of Manchester, N. H., came forward with the announcement that he had the original ballot that he cast for he was a " moderator " and marked his own ballot and was able to secure it for preservation after the count. New Hampshire was in that year the only New England State in which Mr. LINCOLN'S majority was in-

Of the twenty-two distinguished pallbearers who served at Lincoln's funeral, twelve being chosen from Congress, three from the army, three from the navy and

from the army, three from the navy and four from private station, only three or possibly four, it now appears, remain.

There are, it is said, only two survivors of the eleven Presidential Electors who voted for Lancoln and Hamin in Springfield in February, 1881. They are former United States Senator W. P. Kellogo, afterward of Lancoln and Ludge W. H. Dowe of the

ward of Louisiana, and Judge WELDON of the Washington Court of Claims. Illinois had in the Presidential election Illinois had in the Presidential election of 1800 a smaller representation in the Electoral College than either Massachusetts, Indiana or Kentucky, and its total vote that year was less than 350,000, which is a quarter of a million less than the present vote of the city of New York. Although the Electoral vote of Illinois was smaller than that of either Indiana or Kentucky, the result of the Illinois election was of greater importance than party sucwas of greater importance than party success in either. Mr. LINCOLN was an Illinois man, and the national convention which, in their attitude toward this own telegraph wires wherever Chinese on May 16, 1800, put him is nomination alous measure. Arrayed against it telegraphs extend in Manchuria, using was held in Chicago. The Presidentia

candidate of the Northern Democrate, Mr. Boreatan, was also from Illineis and was one of its Senators in Washington. He resided in Chicago. Two of the eleven Illineis Electors survive the final effacement of the sectional and political dissensions which Mr. Limootay's election procipitated and which all the circumstances attending his assassination did so much to aggravate and realess. his assassination did so embitter and prolong.

The modern husband is unlike the old one. He an exacting creature.—Missaukes Journal. Whereas the old one was an unselfish accommodating, lamblike creature, who was never good to himself:

"O, husband of the age of gold,
So mild and meek and humble:
Your veice was never raised to sould,"
You never learned to grumble." The dear, sweet critters! All dead, and

Ruskin College has moved from Trenton Mo., to Gienellyn, Ill. Our veneration for this capital of learning began as soon as we heard its heart-enkindling "yell":

"Mineral, vegetable, animal, man! Stop! No! Kingdom corporate, On we go

Dear to our hearts are these chants of lettered youth. Their exact situation in the world of poetry is hard to describe but it is somewhere between magical formulas and the cri hydrocephalique, the saningless murmur of water on the brain.

### GEORGE GRAY OF DELAWARE. A Republican Suggests Him as the Candi date of the Democratic Party.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The tall To the Editor of the Sun—Sir: The talk of ex-Senator Jones in The Sun of to-day on the subject of Democratic candidates for the Presidency is interesting because the people are always interested concerning men who are regarded as fit for the great office, and in this instance because of the possibility that a Democrat will be elected. The Senator names four gentlemen whom he counts among the possibilities, though he does not reckon that the probabilities of their getting there are over-encouraging. They are Gorman, Parker, Hill, with an indirect reference to Cleveland also. Mr. Jones is not without doubts as to the availability of any one of these gentlemen. Gorman, he thinks, made a mistake concerning the Wilson tariff; Parker's boom was started too early, and Hill is leoked upon as weak. But Jones thinks he looked upon as weak. But Jones thinks he might find a hundred good men if he were to look around.

leeked upon as weak. But Jones thinks he might find a hundred good men if he were to look around.

But the gentlemen whom he has named are hack politicians who have sought to brace up their party with obsolete policies and platforms after having ruined it by some of the most serious mistakes that have been inflicted upon the country since the war disposed of the slavery question. In going from free trade to free silver it merely went from bad to worse. What it needs are new men and new issues, and in this sense I do not refer to Judge Parker as a man whose newness and popularity would electrify the country. If his record were to be explored from his entry into public life he would appear to the country as a weak, intriguing politician, lacking in courage, if not in honesty, and for a score of years the service and handy tool of Governor Hill. His elevation would simply make Hill the President by proxy. Parker is well enough in his place, where he is surrounded by half a dozen men as able as himself, or more so, who have risen without the help of the boosting hand of Hill. He is not too large for his place. Hill has been a deadweight upon the party ever since 1892. Cleveland is barred by the opposition of the people to a third term which barred out that glorious soldier, Grant, who saved the Republic from dissolution. Bryan, like Gorman, is dead.

Though a Republican, I have been looking hopefully for the Democratic party to come forward with new men and new ideas. But the one man for whom I have desired the opportunity to yote has not even been named. I refer to Judge George Gray of Delaware, who is fresh from his service as president of the board of strike commissioners. His conduct in that difficult position marked him as a patriot, a statemma, a man of courage, with clear conceptions of justice and fair play. He ruled on every point in behalf of the great American principle, now so strongly and dangerously opposed, that every citizen of this Republic has the right to work and to receive the rewards of his la

sufrage would be of no value if the voter's independence of action afterward were suppressed by the authority of an organisation adverse to the individual rights of the citizen—so adverse, in fact, that it has recently undertaken to deny the Constitutional right of the citizen to bear arms for his State or his country. The labor issue is at its crisis, and until it is settled on sound principles of equality of rights, it is going to overshadow all others. And the country needs an Executive who has the courage to assume and maintain the position which Judge Gray assumed and maintained so justly and unfinehinally during the long session of the commission.

To vote for such a man all citizens who have suffered through the tyrannies and crimes of labor organizations, from the independent miner who have the blows of the brutal mob or found his home destroyed on returning from his work, to the people, poor or wealthy, who were compelled to sit in cold homes or offices during the long winter, would merge all party differences and vote with a unanimity not surpassed in either the McKinley or the Grant campaigns.

Let the Democratic party lay aside its old, threadbare and rumous issues, and come to the front with the assertion of the one principle that involves the dearest right that your Government guarantees to any man, but which is now being defled by an organized mob which does not heaitate at any form or measure of violence to enforce its determination to control the labor of the country, with the eventual purpose of taking possession of the Government and working its will through Congress. Accidentally we have in the White House a man whose mind is in a condition of inextricable confusion on this question, and whose course attified mobility with which he enforced them. No Judge Upon the bench was ever more candid, more unprejudiced, more free from swerving to either side such as have sometimes been the weaknesses of Judges even in our highest tribunals. Judge Gray is the only man in public life who has shown the c

Serious for the Taxpayers. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Observing that one of your correspondents asks who are the great American humorists, may I inquire: "What's the matter with Governor Odell and his St. Louis MADISON SQUARS, April 25.

A Song of Motion. By the mountain Hons roaring.
By the Last of the Buffaloes moring.
By the red-eyed geysers pouring,
RE, bang, hip, hip, hurrool

By the terremte that bloviate and bellow, By the cascades that clatter and dash; By the compuschers, rumful and mellow, That blench not their brethren te hash; O hell, and O hell, and O hello! I'm the veyager busy and brash. By the steers infuriate to trample,

By the caffons colousal of jaw,
By the meuntain chains, breathless and ampl
Where I used to eat grizzly bear raw;
By the hunters of whom I'm a sample,
By the trembling pappoose and the squaw;

By the rivers tumultuous or muddy,
By cataracts that histher and blart:
By the sunsets, glorious and ruddy,
By the sege brush and alkali tart;
By beef sandwiches streaming and bloody,
By the poems and tales of Bret Harte; By the bells and the whistles saluting.
By the shrick of a thousand bands:
By committees tempestucusly rooting.
By descrip and sun-emitten sands.
Away I go, hooting and tooting.
In the heart of my own Western lands.

By the lordlier range and the room Of my West, where I leap up and loom. By the roar and the clash of my Boom, Resisticas, a trumpet of doom, O. J love to whise, outpouring My soul, like a gapes het. And to show the crowds adm That I'm Journay

BECGATION IN COMA.

So much stress has been laid upon the educational work of the American Government in Cuba during the years 1900 and 1901 that an incorrect impression has been left upon the mind of the public. A school system existed under the Spanish Gevernment. As a system, is was in many ways excellent, if not admirable. In its operation it was, like the legal system of the island, lamentably imperfect. It was corrupt and inefficient. But the island was not so benighted as to be destitute of such an institution. Naturally, if not necessarily, school organization in Cuba followed the lines laid down in the mother country, and Spain weighs public education in other scales than those used in the United States. Education and educational institutions in Cuba, as in Spain, were at all times under Cuba, as in Spain, were at all times under the influence, if not under the direct con-trel, of the dominant Church.

As far back as the year 1871 there are recorded gifts and legacies for the establishment and maintenance of educational institutions in the island of Cubs. By the bull of Pops Adrian VI., in April, 1822, the Scholatria was established in Santiago, then the capital city. In 1871 Capt. Francisco de Paradas left a considerable sum for the foundation of a school in Bayamo. In 1897 the Tridentine Seminary was founded. In 1898 the College of San Ambrosio was established in Havans, but was t long continued. In 1682 the City Council Havana applied for the establi of Havana applied for the establishment of a university in that city, and the institu-tion was opened in 1728. This is still in existence and in active operation. In 1773 the college and seminary of San Carlos and San Ambrosic was instituted in Havana. The building is still standing, and its upper floor is used as a public school,

But the school history of Cuba property begins with the closing years of the eigh-teenth century, during the time of that breadest and most able of Cuba's Governors, Don Luis de las Casas. At that time the entire population of the island in given as, approximately, 270,000, though the census returns are so unreliable that they cannot be accepted as accurate. This was divided, according to Pezuela, into 153,558 whites and 116,741 blacks, and, according to Beam and Wagner, into 183,553 whites and 140,366 blacks. The conditions of the sland were of the crudest, and about onequarter of the population was in a state of slavery.

During the rule of Las Casas, there was founded the Sociedad Economica, which has ever since remained an active and a potent force in insular affairs. It raised funds and established schools, and effected a rude system of educational institutions. In 1826 there were 140 schools in the island, of which 16 were called free schools. The remainder were private schools or schools maintained by subscriptions and tuition fees. A marked advance had been made but the census of 1833 showed only 9,082 pupils registered in the schools of the entire island. In 1842, under Governor-General Valdes, a system of public instruction was definitely organized. Graded schools were established, and primary schools were maintained by the locality in which they were instituted. The secondary schools of a semi-academic character, were mainof a semi-academic character, were main-tained at the expense of the province in which they were located. The primary schools were divided into the elementary and the superior. At the top of the system stood the University of Havana. While this organization effected a material advance, it was only indifferently During the succeeding decade, Captain-General Concha introduced further changes General Concha introduced further changes and made school establishment and maintenance obligatory upon the Municipal Councils. As the entire island, rural as well as urban, is divided into municipal districts, the whole area was included by this law. In 1863 the public school laws of Spain were extended to Cuba, and school teaching

became a profession. Compared with the American system, Cuba's school laws and oustoms were a benighted outfit. Schoolhouses, as distinct unknown. Sessions were usually held at the residence of the teacher. Even at this time there was nothing which corresponded in any way to our free school system. A tuition fee was required from all pupils until the passage of a law in December, 1880, under which provision was made for those whose parents were financially unable to pay a fee. The benefit of this law was extended only upon the presentation of a cartificate issued by the parish priest and indorsed by the local administration authority. By the same law, school attendance was made practically obligatory, and boards of public instruction were instituted. The records of 1883 show the existence of 535 public schools and 184 private schools, for a population of, approximately, 1,500,000. In 1895, with a probable increase of a little more than 10 per cent. in the population, the Department of Public Instruction reported as follows:

olleges . University
Pupils in public schools
Pupils in private schools
Pupils in colleges
Students in institutes
Students in university

In addition to these, there were professional schools, with 9 professors and 60 students: art schools, with 4 professors and 538 students, and normal schools, with 16 professors and 292 students. The Government appropriations for the maintenance of these schools is given as follows:

 Municipal schools
 \$716,892.53

 Institutes
 118,785.20

 University
 134,850.00

 Professio and schools
 17,800.00

 Art schools
 7,050.00

 Normal Schools
 20,000.00

The accuracy of the foregoing figures cannot be vouched for, although they are taken from official records.

Three years of revolution, begun in 1895, demoralised the entire school system of the island. This was inevitable. It might the island. This was inevitable. It might almost be said that the entire social life of the island was broken up. Countless homes were destroyed, families were soattered and hundreds of children roamed the island, friendless and helpless, except for the kindly offices of the charitable who were left with anything of their own. This was the condition at the time of the American occupation, on Jan. 1, 1899. While it is true that the disorganisation and de-moralisation of this period were universal throughout the island, and while it is also true that the school system was grossly inefficient and the statistics of illiteracy were abnormally high, it is equally true that the island was not as destitute educationally as many assumed from the condition found there, and that a false imon was made upon the American

While no direct official attention was paid to school establishment and regula-tion during the opening months of 1896, it is a great mistake to suppose that nothing was done in that direction. These months saw the laying of the foundation of that later structure for which all credit has so erroneously been given to Gen. Leonard Wood. The whole island was practically divided into military districts, which, under the command of Military Provincial Governors, were in charge of subordinate efficers of the American Army. These

officers were the immediate instruments of least reconstruction. The invaluable individual work done by them has never been reported to American readers, but they are really the men who, acting under orders from their immediate superiors, the department commanders, cleared the ground and laid the foundation stones for that which fellowed. Hany a little school did these men reorganise and establish from the limited means at their disposal, and even with no financial means whatever. They were the pionears, and their work and even with no financial means whatever.
They were the pioneers, and their work
was well done, though it has made no noise
in the world. The evidence of it is hidden
away in the huge piles of documents stored
in the War Department at Washington.
It appears in the shape of reports made to
department commanders by Majors, Captains and Lieutenants of our army in Cuba.
Affairs of greater immediate importance

Affairs of greater immediate importance commanded the time and attention of Milits, Governor John R. Brooke until the closing days of his incumbency. Yet the matter of school establishment had not been everlooked. After some weeks of careful investigation and preparation, there was issued, on Dec. 6, 1886, Civil Order No. 226, which was, in its substance, a school law for the establishment and regulation of elementary and superior schools in the island of Cuba. Prior to that, on Nov. 2, there had been issued Civil Order No. 210, which created an office to be known as that of Superintendent of Schools of Cuba, and appointed Mr. Alexie Everett Frye to the place. Credit for school establishment in Cuba belongs not to Gen. Wood, but to Gen. Brooke. Civil Order No. 226 provided for boards of education, sys-tematic school establishment, books and subjects of study. Paragraph 7 of that order provided that Boards of education shall make all necessary arrangements for opening the elementary schools (primary and grammar) by Dec. 11, 1899, or as soon thereafter as possible, and to that end will rent rooms or buildings, supply suitteachers. Fac. of said boards is hereby authorized Each of said boards is hereby authorized to axiend a sum not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50). It furniture for each schoolroom, but no furniture for each schoolroom, but no furniture of school furniture shall be nade without the approval of the Secretary & Justice and Public Instruction." Thus began America's work in the establishment of a new order of educational methods in Cubs. Thus did Gen. Brooke plant and Mr. Frye water that for which Gen. Weed has gathered all the honor and glory.

honor and glory.

Soon after the issuence of the school law.

Gen. Brooke was relieved and Gen. Wood placed in command of the island. Of this officer it is to be said, in all due justice to officer it is to be said, in at due justice to his predecessor, that he shawed, at least, exceedingly bad taste in combenting, as he did in his official seport, on the school status, at the time of his assumption of authority in the island. He the "A certain number of chools had been opened, but it was under the old system r, rather, lack of system. There were Lo proper textbooks, no deks, no school materials. The children were perched on materials. The children were perched on benches without regard to tize. No at-tempt was made to grade or classify them, nor was there any settled precedure in school methods; in short, public instruction was without organization and of little value." While this is not accuracly a

edge, and how much of it came from those who were eager to draw a teacher's pay, may be a matter of conjecture to some It is probable that the motives were some what mixed, with cupidity a little ahead. At the time of the withdrawal of Gen. Brooke there were 312 organized school-January, the following month, the number had doubled. Increase proceeded at such a rate that more than 3,000 had been opened by the first of March. On March & Gen. Wood sent telegraphic orders to all parts of the island to stop any further organiza-tion. Only 187 schools were established during the succeeding four months, and only some 700 more were established during the next two years. Before the 1st of July 3.313 schools were in operation in Cuba, and all of them were established under the Brooke law, It was the Brooke law which created them, and the Brooke law combined with the exuberant energy of Mr. Frye that put them into action operation. The process attracted wide attention in the United States; and because it was done during the regime of the new Governor, the public, ignorant of the facts, jumped to the conclusion that it was Gen. Wood's work. Gen. Brooke may not have been a phenemenal administrator, but he is rightly entitled to the credit for that which

he did.

Mr. Frye's methods as a School Superin tendent were somewhat diffuse. His principal idea appeared to be the establishment of the greatest possible number of schools. In this process he unduly overlooked the essential element of systematic organiza-tion. The whole institution soon fell into exceeding confusion. Whether the fault lay in the law or whether it lay partly or wholly in the methods employed in its exeoution is a matter which is best determine by experts in such matters. Gen. Wood appears to have held the law primarily in fault, inasmuch as he ordered the prepara-tion of a new one. This was drafted by Lieut. (now Capt.) Matthew E. Hanna then serving as aide-de-camp on the staff of the Military Governor. It was issued in August of 1900. It follows closely the law of the State of Ohio. Under its provisions Dr. Estaban Echevaria was ap-pointed Commissioner of Public Schools. In December of the same year he was succeeded by Lieut. Hanna, and soon after Lieut. Hanna's appointment Mr. Frye was dismissed by the Military Governor in a manner which deeply offended him and which was the occasion of not a little discussion in American papers. It was both miss Mr. Frye if he was dissatisfied with his methods, but Mr. Frye complained, apparently with reason, that the manner of his dismissal was neither frank nor properly

In Lieut. Hanna's hands the schools were reduced to an admirable working system, and much credit is due to the young officer for his faithful and efficient work in his department. Some of the provisions of the new law were unduly drastic, under the circumstances. That is illustrated in the paragraph providing for enforced years of age for a period of not less than twenty weeks in a year, of which ten weeks must be consecutive, under a penalty of the or imprisonment imposed upon par-

nothing of providing them with suitable clothing, this was unduly severs. During 1901 the number of schools reached its high-water mark thus far, approximatel 3,500, with approximately 160,000 pupil 3,500, with approximately 100,000 pupil in attendance, or this should perhaps be modified by saying that there were some 1,400 public schools, with about 3,500 school rooms and teachers. Under Cuban administration this number has been cub tailed about 4 per cent. by effecting a mon economical consolidation. The enrollment also shows a falling off. This, the Cuban say, is due to a more accurate registratio of the scholars.

It has been charged, with ample reason that the expenditures for educational establishment were unduly excessive, even to extravagance, at a time when the Cuhan could ill afford the wasting or the unwis use of a single dollar. The gross expen diture approximated \$4,000,000 a year during the Wood régime. This was nearly 25 per cent. of the total revenue of an impover-ished island. Nearly three-quarters of a million dollars were expended in the purchase and distribution of elaborate school-room fittings, books, &c. The salaries paid to teachers were much above those paid teachers in the United States, the average being nearly \$48 a month for each teacher. The expenditure per year per pupil was about \$26.50. Comparison with such figures as are immediately at hand shows a similar expenditure in Michigan, famous for her school system, of less than \$20; Texas, about \$11; Louisiana, between \$7 and \$8; and the Carolinas, about \$4; any one of these American States being in vastly better financial and social condition than

That a vast amount of good has been accomplished by school establishment in Cuba is beyond any possible question. That endlessly important results will be manifest in the future life of the island is equally beyond doubt. The point dis-tinctly open to individual view and opinion rests on the question of the general economy of the work and in the expediency of ap-plying so large a portion of Cuba's limited revenues to this special purpose, in view of the island's many and great industrial needs and in view of the existing economic

Popular Belight at Mr. Resseveit's Presi of Respect for Law.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Of all the lovely, genial rays emitted by The Sun since the day it first began to shine on these great American United States, the loveliest and the genialest is the ray that to-day marks the ending of THE SUN'S revelation of the the ending of the doings on Hell Boaring Creek.
W. R. CLARTON.

RITTENHOUSE CLUB, Philadelphia, April 14

How an Agnostic Looks at Conversions TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The Rev. Page Milburn of the Baltimore Methodist Episcopal Conference told me that he was the only non-Catholic of his family from the old 34. Mary's peninsuls. Bishop Wilmer of Louisians told me thirty years ago that he had taken into the Protestant Episcopal fold over

school methods; in short, public instruction was without organization and of little value." While this is not accurately a perversion of the truth, it is distinctly misleading, and is an unjustifiable reflection by Gen. Wood upon the work of his superior officer. Gen. Brooke took up the question of schools as soon as it was possible, under the existing conditions, to do so properly and wisely. Between the date of his doing so and the date of his relief there was not time to put his order into effective operation. Gen. Wood's official comment is as unjust as it is uncalled for.

Building upon Gen. Brooke's foundation, Gen. Wood issued an order, on Jan. 24, 1900, creating a Board of Superintendents of Schools, and appointed Mr. Frye as a member of the board. The issuance of the Brooke school law resulted in an immediate demand for school facilities from all over the island. How much of this demand arose from a keen Cuban thirst for knowledge, and how much of it came from those who were easier to draw a teacher's nav. When the accident of marriage, or the fa-

Winning the Francisco

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SITE the matter of the disfranchisement. Brother in Black" in some of the Sot, States, permit me to ask if any exception made of the black man who enlisted in the Federal army during the civil war, 1801-8, or in the recent Spanish-American War, From my point of view, the black soldier carned the right of franchise, and this right chould, I think, go to his descendants.

CINCINNATI, April 28.

The Small City Farm.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUE-Sire What has become of New York city's vacant lot cultivation business? Has it gone to grass, so to speak? I am reminded to inquire by looking at the sixth am reminded to inquire by looking at the sixth annual report of the Philadelphia Vacant Lots Cultivation Association, which shows that from a beginning with twenty-seven acres in 1897 it had risen to 198 acres in 1892; and from 536 beneficiaries in 1897 to 3,778 in 1992; and from 536 beneficiaries in 1897 to 3,778 in 1992; and from a total product of 86,000 in 1892 to a product of 850,000 in 1892. Philadelphia may be slow, but is New York any ahead of hef in respect of these things?

QUARKEL PHILADELPHIA, April 28.

The Game of Filinch.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Four Brocklyn correspondent, "C. R. C.," in the matter of furnishing definite information concerning the game
of "Filinch," is neither very definite nor very informing, as appears in Saturday's Suns. He says:
"It is a card game with a specially prepared deck
of 180 cards." I have heard of card games with
specially prepared decks, but I don't think I ever
heard of that many extra cards. What kind of
sleeves or bootlegs does the player have? No
wonder "the good Methodists of the middle West
have been immensely stirred up" by the game.
A deck like that is enough to stir up even a bad
Methodist. Will it be necessary for me to go to
Brooklyn for further information on "Filinch"
I am prepared to make any sacrince in the cause
of knowledge.

NEW YORE, April 25.

Elementary School Physiology. From the St. James's Gasette.

For pure confusion of thought the following net essay by a Board School child of 12 on the "Human Body" would be hard to beat:

"The human body is divided into three partsthe bead, the chest, and the tummick.

"The head contains the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and brains, if any.

"The chest contains the heart, lungs, and part

of the liver.

"The tummick is entirely devoted to the vowels.
of which there are five, namely, a. c. i. c. u. and sometimes y and z."

Kentucky's Aquatic Hen

From the Winchester Democrat.

Mrs. Annie Lawrence of near Winchester had a chicken hen to go to the creek and wade in the wat and spread her wings out on top of the water and laid five eggs. The first time Mrs. Lawrence saw her she thought a turtle or something had hold of her. When she went to lay her sixth egg Mrs. Lawrence had company to come, and she killed

Spread of the Snob.

"Le snoblame" is complete and so is "lo saob " orrowed with careful grammar by the newspapers of Italy. So is a new word spoken in Suder-mann's play by the German actors. We hasten to present it as a novelty worth noting—"anob-thum."

> Where Not to Go. From the Ladies' Field.

There are placed which are chic to go to and places which are dowdy. St. Petersburg, Madrid, Cairo, Simla, Ottawa—these are all right; whereas Asbon, Colombo, Berlin, Melbourne, no one eve asts of having been in any of these capitals.

Poet and Peasant.

While chopping trees down on a summer's day A broad young farmer asked me what I read. I showed the title to him.—"Pan is Pead.—"Gosh, what a name!" he said, and hashed oway.